

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00  
PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00  
DHA-02 IO-13 PRS-01 PA-01 AF-10 EA-07 EUR-12  
NEA-10 EB-08 COME-00 AID-05 IGA-02 ACDA-07 TRSE-00  
OMB-01 OES-07 /135 W  
-----057833 162241Z /72

O R 162108Z AUG 77  
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6078  
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION  
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA  
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ  
AMEMBASSY LIMA  
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO  
AMEMBASSY QUITO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 SANTIAGO 6702

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: OTRA SHUM PINT PGOV (TODMAN, TERENCE), CI  
SUBJECT: TODMAN VISIT: THIRD AND FINAL DAY IN SANTIAGO

REF: BUENOS AIRES 6032 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY. ON HIS FINAL MORNING IN SANTIAGO ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN BREAKFASTED WITH EDITORS AND PUBLISHERS OF ALL MAJOR SANTIAGO NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES, CALLED ON CARDINAL SILVA, VISITED BRIEFLY THE VICARIATE OF SOLIDARITY, AS WELL AS AN INFANT RECUPERATION-NUTRITION CENTER, AND GAVE A BRIEF PRESS CONFERENCE JUST PRIOR TO MIDDAY DEPARTURE FOR BUENOS AIRES. END SUMMARY.

2. AMBASSADOR TODMAN BEGAN THE DAY WITH A WORKING BREAKFAST WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF PRINCIPAL NEWSPAPERS  
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AND NEWS-MAGAZINES IN CHILE. THE VIEWS OF THOSE PRESENT RANGED FROM STRONGLY PRO GOVERNMENT THROUGH MODERATELY CRITICAL TO CAREFULLY IN OPPOSITION. THE EDITORS GENERALLY PAINTED A HOPEFUL PICTURE OF TRANSITION FROM AN AUTHORITARIAN MILITARY JUNTA TO SOME SORT OF DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED GOVERNMENT AND PREDICTED THAT THE TIME TABLE ANNOUNCED BY PRESIDENT PINOCHET ON JULY 9TH WOULD BE

SHORTENED. TODMAN EXPLAINED AT LENGTH THE REASONS WHY THE US PREFERS TO DEAL WITH DEMOCRATIC REGIMES IN LATIN AMERICA AND ELSEWHERE, AND ALSO WHY THE US NECESSARILY HAS TO TAKE OTHER INTERESTS INTO ACCOUNT. HE EXPRESSED THE SINCERE HOPE THAT THE PROGRESS IN CHILE WOULD RESULT IN THE RESTORATION OF TRADITIONAL DEMOCRATIC POLITICAL NORMS AND CLOSE TIES BETWEEN THE GOC AND US. MOST OF THE CHILEAN EDITORS AND PUBLISHERS REMAIN SKEPTICAL AND CYNICAL ABOUT WHAT THEY REGARD AS A USG DOUBLE STANDARD ON HUMAN RIGHTS: I.E., ABSOLUTE CONDEMNATION OF A CHILE WHICH IS IN THE PROCESS OF RETURNING TO DEMOCRACY, AND RAPPROCHEMENT -- IF NOT ALLIANCE -- WITH OTHER COUNTRIES WHO ARE WORSE HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATORS THAN CHILE, E.G., BOTH KOREAS, CUBA, EUROPEAN COMMUNIST REGIMES, AND OTHERS.

3. CARDINAL SILVA, WHO WAS ACCOMPANIED BY BISHOP VALECH AND FATHER CRISTIAN PRECHT, PRESENTED HIS USUAL CAREFULLY BALANCED AND FAIR ASSESSMENT OF THE CURRENT CHILEAN SITUATION. HIS ANALYSIS (WHICH LARGELY PARALLELS THAT OF THE EMBASSY) INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING SALIENT POINTS:

-- THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IS MUCH IMPROVED OVER WHAT IT WAS IN '76 AND IN PREVIOUS YEARS. THE REPORTS OF ABUSES ARE DOWN SIGNIFICANTLY AND THE ABOLITION OF DINA MUST BE REGARDED AS A POSITIVE STEP.  
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-- SINCE THE MILITARY TAKEOVER HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES HAVE OCCURRED. THE GOVERNMENT IS AN AUTHORITARIAN JUNTA. HOWEVER, THE PINOCHET REGIME IS A GOOD DEAL LESS HARSH THAN THE DICTATORSHIPS IN MOST OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD AND ELSEWHERE IN LATIN AMERICA.

-- THE ALLEGED FIGURE OF 2500 DISAPPEARED PERSONS IS FALSE AND GIVES CREDENCE TO GOVERNMENT CLAIMS THAT MOST OF THE "DISAPPEARED" ARE FICTITIOUS NAMES BASED UPON PHONY MULTIPLE IDENTIFICATIONS DEVELOPED DURING THE ALLENDE PERIOD, OR PERSONS IN HIDING IN CHILE OR OVERSEAS. THE CARDINAL EMPHASIZED, HOWEVER, THAT WHEN ONE TALKS OF 700 CASES OF DISAPPEARED PERSONS, THIS AS A

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 SANTIAGO 6702

PRETTY HARD FIGURE BASED ON EXHAUSTIVE AND CAREFUL  
RESEARCH BY THE VICARIATE OF SOLIDARITY.

-- PINOCHET'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF A GRADUAL RETURN TO SOME  
FORM OF ELECTED GOVERNMENT IS A POSITIVE STEP. THE STRUC-  
TURES OUTLINED BY PINOCHET ARE NOT IN KEEPING WITH  
TRADITIONAL CHILEAN DEMOCRACY BUT ARE BEING DEBATED  
WITHIN THE MILITARY AND ELSEWHERE.

-- THE CARDINAL SAID THAT THERE HAD BEEN SOME ECONOMIC  
RECOVERY FROM THE 75-76 LOW POINT BUT THAT ONE HAD TO CON-  
SIDER THE ECONOMIC DISASTER FROM WHICH THE GOC WAS MEASURING  
ITS STATISTICS. THE CARDINAL SAID THERE WAS STILL A  
GREAT DEAL OF DISTRESS AMONG WORKERS, THAT THE GOVERNMENT  
WAS NOT DOING NEARLY ENOUGH IN THE SOCIAL AREA AND THAT  
THE "LIBERAL" ECONOMIC PHILOSOPHY AND IMPLEMENTING POLICIES  
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OF THE REGIME WERE BOUND TO FAIL.

-- FINALLY, THE CARDINAL SAID THAT HE WAS MOST CONCERNED  
ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF PERUVIAN INVASION POINTING OUT  
THAT THE ARMS BUILD UP IN PERU WAS ENORMOUS. HE WARNED  
THAT IF PUSHED OR INVADED, THE CHILEAN MILITARY WOULD  
CERTAINLY FIGHT. MOREOVER, THERE WAS A POLITICAL

DIMENSION TO THE ENORMOUS ARMS IMBALANCE IN FAVOR OF PERU IN THAT THE CHILEAN MILITARY COULD BOTH SPEND RESOURCES FOR ARMAMENTS WHICH SHOULD GO INTO THE SOCIAL SECTOR AND CLAIM THE NEED TO REMAIN IN POWER -- ALL BECAUSE OF THE PERUVIAN THREAT.

AMBASSADOR TODMAN THANKED THE CARDINAL FOR HIS APPRECIATION OF THE SITUATION, COMMENTED ON SEVERAL POINTS AND DISCUSSED AT SOME LENGTH THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE ECONOMIC ANALYSIS AND PROGNOSIS MADE BY THE GOVERNMENT'S ECONOMIC TEAM AND THAT OF THE CARDINAL. WHEREAS THE FORMER POINTED TO DRAMATICALLY REDUCED INFLATION, SLOWLY INCREASING EMPLOYMENT AND PRODUCTION AND, SIGNIFICANTLY LOWERED TARIFFS AND GREATER EFFICIENCY, THE LATTER CONTINUED TO EMPHASIZE UNEMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC HARDSHIP. TO THE CARDINAL'S COMMENT THAT HE HAD A PANEL OF EXPERT ECONOMISTS WHO COULD SUBSTANTIATE HIS ANALYSES, AMBASSADOR TODMAN RESPONDED WITH THE HOPE THAT BOTH SIDES WOULD COMMUNICATE AND EXCHANGE VIEWS ON THESE IMPORTANT SUBJECTS. THE CARDINAL NOTED THAT HE WAS IN TOUCH WITH THE GOC AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL THROUGH A PERSON SPECIALLY DESIGNATED FOR THE PURPOSE (HE WAS REFERRING TO GENERAL COURT). IN CLOSING THE CARDINAL GAVE HIS USUAL PITCH THAT THE US GOVERNMENT WOULD FIND SOME WAY TO AID THE CHILEAN PEOPLE (READ THROUGH THE CATHOLIC CHURCH) NOW THAT GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE HAD BEEN TERMINATED.

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4. ON THE WAY TO THE AIRPORT AMBASSADOR TODMAN STOPPED OFF FOR A BRIEF TOUR AT THE VICARIATE OF SOLIDARITY (THE CATHOLIC CHURCH'S COMBINATION HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCATE, LEGAL AID SOCIETY AND SOCIAL ACTION ORGANIZATION). FATHER CRISTIAN PRECHT SHOWED TODMAN AROUND AND EXPLAINED THE WORK OF THE VICARIATE. THEN THE GROUP STOPPED BY AN INFANT RECUPERATION CENTER IN THE LOWER MIDDLE-CLASS NEIGHBORHOOD OF PUDAHUEL. HERE DR FERNANDO MONCKEBERG EXPLAINED TO AMBASSADOR TODMAN THAT THROUGH SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAMS CHILE'S NUTRITION PROBLEM HAD BEEN BY AND LARGE SOLVED FROM AGE SIX ONWARD. UNFORTUNATELY, IN MANY CASES MALNUTRITION WAS ALREADY FAR ENOUGH ADVANCED AT AGE SIX THAT CHILDREN COULD NOT BE TAUGHT BECAUSE MALNUTRITION HAD DAMAGED THEIR MENTAL AS WELL AS PHYSICAL CAPACITIES. TO SOLVE THIS PROBLEM IN THE LAST THREE-FOUR YEARS A COOPERATIVE PROGRAM INVOLVING THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE, VOLUNTARY PRIVATE CONTRIBUTIONS OF OVER \$1 MILLION, TITLE II FOOD, AND PROGRAMMING EVALUATION HELP FROM AID HAD MADE IT POSSIBLE TO ESTABLISH 37 INFANT RECUPERATION CENTERS THE LENGTH OF CHILE. AS A RESULT OF THE EFFORTS OF

THE RECUPERATION-NUTRITION CENTERS INFANT MALNUTRITION WAS DECREASING SIGNIFICANTLY. AMBASSADOR TODMAN AND PARTY THEN TOURED THE FACILITY IN WHICH HUMAN EVIDENCE CONFIRMED DR MONCKEBERG'S ANALYSIS. CLINIC STAFFERS WERE ECSTATIC AT AMBASSADOR TODMAN'S REMARK THAT THEIR EFFORTS WERE "THE ESSENCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS," A QUOTE THEY WILL USE IN THEIR STRUGGLES TO KEEP THE PROGRAM FUNDED.

5. FINALLY, AT THE AIRPORT, ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN GAVE A PRESS CONFERENCE WHICH HAS BEEN REPORTED BY USIS IN ITS CHANNELS.

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## Message Attributes

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